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酎カプセルの外皮 

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1. 発明の名称

飲カプセルの外皮

2. 特許請求の範囲

多価アルコール、糖アルコール、単糖類、二糖 類及びオリゴ糖から選ばれた少なくとも1種の濃 厚溶液の中で、カラギナン、アルギン酸、アルギ ン酸誘導体、寒天、ローカストピーンガム、グァ ーガム、クマリンド種子多糖類、ペクチン、キサ ンタンガム、グルコマンナン、キチン質、プルラ ン、サイクロデキストリンから選ばれた少なくと も1種の天然多糖類を、アルカリの存在下或いは 非存在下に、均一に混練して得られた天然多糖類 ・多価アルコール組成物を原料とする飲力プセル の外皮。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、油性以外の物質であっても充塡する ことができる飲力プセルの外皮に関する。

〔従来の技術〕

飲力プセルはゼラチンを主体とするシートに油 性の薬品等を充塡したものであって、内容液の含 有量が正確であること、接着面が完全密封されて いるため液漏れがなく内容物が外気と遮断され、 酸化防止及び安定保存が図れ、しかも生産性が高 い等の長所がある。

従来から軟カプセルはゼラチンを主原料とし、 ゼラチンとグリセリンやソルビトール等を混合し、 水溶液としたものをゲル化させシート状とし、こ のシート 2 枚を左右一対のダイロールから加熱し ながらそれぞれ供給し、2枚のシート間に内容液 を連続的に充塡、密封後、乾燥して製造されてい

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

飲カプセルは上記の通り、内容物の保存性、高 生産性等の点で非常に優れているが、ゼラチンが 水に溶解するため、内容物が水溶液の場合は利用 できず、被充塡薬品は油性溶媒に溶解しうるもの に限られ、その利用範囲が制限されていた。そこ で、水溶液の状態であっても軟カプセル状に充塡



できる外皮が求められていた。

#### (問題解決の手段)

本発明に係る多価アルコールとしては、プロピレングリコール、グリセリン等の狭義の多価アルコールが挙げられる。糖アルコールとしては、ソルピトール、マンニトール、マルチトール、キシリトール、還元澱粉糖化物等が挙げられる。単糖

ンモニウム塩基性アミノ酸、アミン等が滞げられる。アルカリを添加すると一般にシートの強度、 耐熱性が向上する。

更に、上記天然多糖類に蛋白質を併用することもできる。蛋白質としては大豆蛋白、小皮蛋白、ミルク蛋白、卵白、コラーゲン、コラーゲン分解物、微生物蛋白等が挙げられる。蛋白分解産物としては、ポリペプチド、ジペプチド、トリペプチド、アミノ酸が挙げられる。一般に、天然多糖類の一部に代えて蛋白質を併用して得られる組成物は強度が向上する傾向がある。

本発明は、これら多価アルコール、糖アルコール、単糖類、二糖類及びオリゴ糖から選ばれた少なくとも1種の濃厚溶液の中で天然多糖類が反応することに特徴がある。濃厚溶液とは、それ自体液状のものはそのまま、或いはわずかに希釈して使用し、粉体のものは30~90%水溶液、好ましくは50~80%、より好ましくは60~80%水溶液として、この中に上記多糖類の少なくとも1種を混練していく。

類としてはグルコース、フラクトース、ガラクトース、キシロース等が使用される。二糖類としてはサッカロース、マルトース、ラクトース等が使用される。オリゴ糖としてはさつま芋、じゃが芋、とうもろこし等の澱粉の酵素、酸などによる分解を物が使用され、二糖類、三糖類、四糖類、五糖類、六糖類等が含まれている。

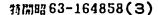
天然多糖類とは、カラギナン、アルギン酸、アルギン酸誘導体、寒天、ローカストピーンガム、グァーガム、タマリンド種子多糖類、ペクチン、キサンタンガム、グルコマンナン、ムコ多糖類の一種であるキチン質、プルラン、サイクロデキストリン等も広く使用できる。

場合によっては、アルカリを併用することが好ましい。アルカリは通常の無機、有機のアルカリ性物質であればよく、例えば水酸化ナトリウム、水酸化カルシウム、水酸化マグネシウム、水酸化バリウム、炭酸ナトリウム、炭酸カルシウム、炭酸アンモニウム、炭酸マグネシウム、重炭酸ナトリウム、重炭酸ア

混練する温度は5~150℃、好ましくは10~100℃、より好ましくは20~80℃であり、低温で混練しても、後に乾燥する際などに加熱すれば充分に反応する。一般に、温度が高いと報密な構造の組成物が得られ、温度が低いと網目構造が粗く脆い組成物が得られる。

天然多糖類と多価アルコール、糖アルコール、 単糖類、二糖類及びオリゴ糖から選ばれた少なく とも 1 種の化合物との配合比は、天然多糖類 1 重 量部に対し、これら化合物 0.05 ~15重量部、好 ましくは 0.1~10重量部である。

上記原料を混練して得られた組成物は、一般に多少温り気のある粉体である。これを水に溶解すると固形分2~10%の粘稠な溶液或いはペースト状となり、常温放置、凍結、冷蔵または加熱により不可逆的に凝固させることができる。し任意の物性、特に強度、耐熱性、水に対する溶解温度をして好ましい。





本発明に係る飲カプセル外皮の態様としては、 (A) ゼラチンシートに代えて本発明に係る組成物の水溶液を一旦、  $5\sim500~\mu$  好ましくは $10\sim50~\mu$ のシートに成形したシートを使用するもの、

(B) ゼラチンシートと本発明に係る組成物のシートとを積層し、本発明に係るシートを内層にしたもの、

(C) 軟カプセル用ゼラチン溶液と本発明に係る 組成物溶液とを混合して乾燥したシートからなる もの、等が挙げられる。

較カプセルの被充塡物としては従来油性溶液として使用し難かった、ピタミンB」、B』、B』、B。、B。、B。、B。、CP。とのである。、B、サイアシン、葉酸、ピタミンC等の水溶性ピタミン、糖質、蛋白質、ミネラル等の栄養素、カプセル化した調味料や各辛料、一回の使用量ずつ小分けされた化粧料等が挙げられる。

天然多糖類は種々の反応基や側鎖を有する複雑な構造であるため、多数の水酸基が高濃度に存在する濃厚溶液の中で反応し、複雑なマトリックス

左右 2 組のフィルムを一対のダイロール間を通して加熱圧着しながら内容液としてL-アスコルピン酸水溶液(濃度 3 0 %) 5 0 0 mg/個を充壌ポンプで圧入してカプセルを成形した。得られたカプセルを乾燥して飲カプセルが得られた。

#### (実施例2)

(作用)

グルコマンナン

5 部、

カラギナン

0.5部、

炭酸カルシウム

0.12部、

グリセリン 1部を70でで30 分間混練して得られた組成物3部を水97部に溶解して得られた粘稠な水溶液を湿式キャススイルムを限し15μ厚のフィルムを得た。このフィィルムを同様にしてゼラチンフィィをの二重構造の飲力プセル外皮を得た。カブセル外皮を得なって変数した大力では、カブセルを得た。この飲力でに促って変数したのが強温し、チャンスープが得られた。 を形成するものと考えられる。ここに水を加える ことにより複雑な三次元構造が一層発達し、不可 逆的に耐水性、耐熱性凝固体を形成するに至り、 独特なゲル状物が形成される。

このようなゲル状物は耐水性であるため、水溶液の状態の薬剤、食品、化粧料などの被充塡物を 封入保存するための飲力プセル外皮として好まし く使用できる。

#### (実施例1)

ゼラチン100部、グリセリン30部、水60 部を75℃で攪拌溶解し、真空ポンプで脱泡した。 ロータリー式連続ソフトカプセル自動充填機にて 厚さ450μのゼラチンフィルムとした。

別に、グルコマンナン5重量部、カラギナン2 重量部、キサンタンガム1重量部を80%のサッカロース溶液1.5重量部と80でで10分間混練して得た組成物3重量部を水97重量部に溶解した水溶液を温式キャスト法で製膜し、厚さ25μのフィルムを得た。このフィルムに上記のゼラチンフィルムを重ねた二重フィルムを2組作成し、

#### (実施例3)

#### (効果)

本発明により、観水性の被充塡物を水溶液の状態で飲カプセル化することが可能になり、飲カプセルの用途が一段と拡大した。

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## (54) Outer Shell of Soft Capsule

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## Specification

#### 1. Title of the Invention

## Outer Shell of Soft Capsule

### 2. Scope of Patent Claim

The outer shell of a soft capsule, the starting material of which is a natural polysaccharide-polyhydric alcohol composition obtained by uniformly mixing at least one natural polysaccharide of the following: carrageenan, alginic acid, alginic acid derivative, agar, locust bean gum, guar gum, tamarind seed polysaccharide, pectin, xanthan gum, glucomannan, chitin, pullulan, and cyclodextrin in a concentrated solution of at least one of the following: polyhydric alcohol, sugar alcohol, monosaccharide, disaccharide, and oligosaccharide in the presence or absence of an alkali.

## 3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Industrial Field of Use]

The present invention pertains to the outer shell of a soft capsule that can be filled with a substance other than an oil.

[Prior Art]

Soft capsules are capsules wherein an oleaginous drug, etc., is introduced into a sheet made mainly of gelatin. These capsules have advantages in that the amount of liquid they hold is exact, their adhesive surface is perfectly sealed and therefore, there is no leakage and the contents are protected from outside air, in

turn making it possible to prevent oxidation and improve shelf life, and the productivity is high, etc.

Conventional soft capsules are made by mixing a gelatin starting material with glycerin or sorbitol, etc., to make an aqueous solution, gelling this solution and making the gel into a sheet, feeding two such sheets from a left and a right pair of die rolls while heating, continuously introducing and sealing the liquid between the two sheets, and drying.

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

As previously mentioned, soft capsules are excellent in terms of shelf life of their contents, their high productivity, etc., but because the gelatin is dissolved in water, their contents cannot be in the form of an aqueous solution and the only drug that can be introduced inside these capsules is one that can be dissolved in an oleaginous solvent. This restricts the use of soft capsules. Therefore, there is a need for an outer shell in soft capsule form that can even be filled with an aqueous solution.

[Means for Solving Problems]

The present invention solves the above-mentioned problems, its structure being characterized in that it uses as the starting material of the outer shell of the soft capsule a natural polysaccharide-polyhydric alcohol composition obtained by uniformly mixing at least one natural polysaccharide selected from carrageenan, alginic acid, alginic acid derivative, agar, locust bean gum, guar gum, tamarind seed polysaccharide, pectin, xanthan gum, glucomannan, chitin, pullulan, and cyclodextrin in a concentrated solution of at least one of the following: polyhydric

alcohol, sugar alcohol, monosaccharide, disaccharide, and oligosaccharide in the presence or absence of an alkali.

Polyhydric alcohols in the narrow sense of the word, such as propylene glycol, glycerin, etc., are given as polyhydric alcohols pertaining to the present invention. Sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, reduced starch saccharification product, etc., are given as sugar alcohols. Glucose, fructose, galactose, xylose, etc., are used as monosaccharides. Saccharose, maltose, lactose, etc., are used as disaccharides. The products of decomposition of starches such as sweet potato, white potato, and corn by enzymes, acids, etc., are used as oligosaccharides, and include disaccharides, trisaccharides, tetrasaccharides, pentasaccharides, hexasaccharides, etc.

Carrageenan, alginic acid, alginic acid derivative, agar, locust bean gum, guar gum, tamarind seed polysaccharide, pectin, xanthan gum, glucomannan, chitin, which is a type of mucopolysaccharide, pullulan, cyclodextrin, etc., can be widely used as natural polysaccharides.

Depending on the case, an alkali is preferably used concomitantly. The alkali should be an ordinary inorganic or organic alkaline substance, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, barium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, calcium carbonate, ammonium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, ammonium bicarbonate, basic amino acid, amine, etc. When an alkali is added, strength and heat resistance will usually improve.

Furthermore, proteins can also be used concomitantly with the above-mentioned natural polysaccharides. Soy proteins, wheat protein, milk proteins, egg white, collagen, collagen decomposition products, microorganism proteins, etc., are given as the protein. Polypeptide, dipeptide, tripeptide, and amino acids are given as protein decomposition products. There is usually a tendency toward an increase in strength with a composition that is obtained by concomitant use of protein to replace part of the natural polysaccharide.

The present invention is characterized in that the natural polysaccharide is reacted in a concentrated solution of at least one of these polyhydric alcohols, sugar alcohols, monosaccharides, disaccharides and oligosaccharides. The concentrated solution is either the liquid form itself, or a slightly diluted liquid. The powder is made into an aqueous 30 to 90%, preferably 50 to 80%, more preferably 60 to 80%, solution and at least one of the above-mentioned polysaccharides is kneaded in this solution.

The temperature at which kneading is performed is 5 to 150°C, preferably 10 to 100°, more preferably 20 to 80°C. Even if kneading is performed at a low temperature, the reaction will be sufficient as long as the product is then heated when it is later dried, etc. In general, a composition with a delicate structure is obtained at a high temperature, while a composition whose mesh-like structure is coarse and brittle is obtained at a low temperature.

The mixture ratio of natural polysaccharide and at least one compound selected from: polyhydric alcohol, sugar alcohol, monosaccharide, disaccharide,

and oligosaccharide is 0.05 to 15 parts by weight, preferably 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, of these compounds to 1 part by weight of natural polysaccharide.

The composition obtained by kneading the above-mentioned starting materials is usually a slightly damp powder. When this is dissolved in water, it forms a sticky solution or paste with a solids content of 2 to 10% and can irreversibly congeal by being set aside at normal temperature, frozen, refrigerated or heated. Moreover, the congealed product that is obtained is preferred as the outer shell of a soft capsule because its properties, particularly strength, heat resistance and dissolution temperature in water, can be adjusted as needed by adjusting the starting materials that are used.

The following are given as embodiments of the outer shell of a soft capsule of the present invention:

- (A) A substitute for a gelatin sheet that has been made by molding an aqueous solution of the composition pertaining to the present invention into a sheet with a thickness of 5 to 500  $\mu$ , preferably 10 to 50  $\mu$ ,
- (B) A sheet that has been obtained by layering a gelatin sheet and a sheet of the composition pertaining to the present invention so that the sheet pertaining to the present invention is on the inside,
- (C) A sheet that has been obtained by mixing a gelatin solution for soft capsules and a solution of the composition pertaining to the present invention.

Aqueous vitamin solutions of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>5</sub>, B<sub>6</sub>, B<sub>12</sub>, niacin, folic acid, vitamin C, etc., nutrients, such as saccharides, proteins, minerals, etc., encapsulated flavorings and seasonings, toiletries that are used in small amounts

at a time, etc., which have been difficult to use as a conventional oleaginous solution, are given as substances that are introduced into the soft capsule.

#### [Effects]

Natural polysaccharides have a complex structure with various reactive groups and side chains and therefore, apparently react in concentrated solutions in which many hydroxyl groups are present at high concentrations to form a complex matrix. When water is added to this, an even more complex three-dimensional structure is produced and a water-resistant, heat-resistant congealed product is irreversibly formed to produce a unique gel.

This type of gel is water-resistant and therefore, it can be preferably used as the outer shell of a soft capsule in which a substance such as a drug, a food product, or toiletry in the form of an aqueous solution is sealed and stored.

#### [Example 1]

One-hundred parts of gelatin, 30 parts of glycerin, and 60 parts of water were agitated and dissolved at 75°C and defoamed with a vacuum pump. A gelatin film with a thickness of 450 µm was obtained with a rotary-type continuous soft-capsule automatic filling device.

Five parts by weight of glucomannan, 2 parts by weight of carrageenan, and 1 part by weight of xanthan gum were separately kneaded with 1.5 parts of an 80% sucrose solution for 10 minutes at 80°C. Three parts by weight of the composition that was obtained were dissolved in 97 parts by weight of water and this aqueous solution was made into film by the wet casting method to obtain a film with a thickness of 25 µ. Two sets of double film in which the above-

mentioned gelatin film was layered onto this film were made. The two sets of films, a right and a left set, were passed through a pair of die rolls and heated and pressed while an aqueous L-ascorbic acid solution (concentration of 30%) was introduced under pressure by a filling pump to form capsules of 500 mg ascorbic acid/capsule.

[Example 2]

Glucomannan

5 parts

Carrageenan

0.5 part

Calcium carbonate 0.12 part

Glycerin

1 part

The above-mentioned components were kneaded for 30 minutes at 70°C and then 3 parts of the composition that was obtained were dissolved in 97 parts of water. The sticky aqueous solution that was obtained was made into film by the wet casting method to obtain a film with a thickness of 15 µ. The outer shell of a soft capsule having a two layered structure was obtained as in Example 1 using this film and a gelatin film. Soft capsules in which 2 g/capsule of flavoring liquid for instant chicken soup were introduced were obtained. When 150 ml of hot water at 90°C were added to one of these soft capsules and thoroughly agitated. the soft capsule broke to make chicken soup.

[Example 3]

One-hundred parts of gelatin, 30 parts of glycerin, and 10 parts of water were agitated and dissolved at 75°C. This was defoamed with a vacuum pump to obtain solution A. Five parts of glucomannan, 3.5 parts of carrageenan, and

1.5 parts of glycerin were separately kneaded at 70°C and 3 parts of the composition of the present invention that was obtained were dissolved in 97 parts of water to obtain aqueous solution B. Sixty parts of A and 40 parts of B were thoroughly kneaded and 290 mg of astringent lotion/capsule were introduced into No. 5 soft capsules by the conventional rotary die method using a rotary-type soft-capsule continuous automatic filling device. At the time of use, the soft capsule was pierced with a pin to obtain a dose of astringent lotion.

## [Results]

By means of the present invention, it is possible to encapsulate hydrophilic contents in the form of an aqueous solution in a soft capsule, further increasing the use of soft capsules.

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